

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~Method~~ method for characterizing the state of a neoplastic disease in a subject, comprising

i. determining the pattern of expression levels of ~~at least 6, 8, 10, 15, 20, 30, or 47~~ 4 breast carcinoma marker genes, wherein said breast carcinoma marker genes consist of ~~comprise~~ SEQ ID NO: 51, SEQ ID NO: 87, SEQ ID NO: 159, and SEQ ID NO: 477, in a biological sample from said subject,

ii. comparing the pattern of expression levels determined in (i) with one or several reference pattern(s) of expression levels,

iii. characterizing the state of said neoplastic disease in said subject from the outcome of the comparison in step (ii), wherein said characterizing comprises detecting, diagnosing, screening, monitoring, and/or prognosing said neoplastic disease in said subject from the outcome of the comparison in step (ii) and wherein said neoplastic disease is breast carcinoma.

2. Canceled.

3. Canceled.

4. Canceled.

5. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Method~~ of claim 1 ~~or 3~~, wherein said method comprises multiple determinations of a pattern of expression levels, at different points in time, thereby allowing to monitor the development of said neoplastic disease in said subject.

6. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Method~~ of claim 1 ~~or 3~~, wherein said method comprises an estimation of the likelihood of success of a given mode of treatment for said neoplastic disease in said subject.

7. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Method~~ of claim 1 ~~or 3~~, wherein said method comprises an assessment of whether or not the subject is expected to respond to a given mode of treatment for said neoplastic disease.
8. - 15. Canceled
16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~Method of claims 1 or 3~~ further comprising additional marker genes listed in Table 2.
17. - 18. Canceled
19. (Currently Amended) A kit comprising at least ~~6, 8, 10, 15, 20, 30, or 47~~ 4 primer pairs and probes suitable for breast carcinoma marker genes ~~comprised in a group of marker genes comprising~~ SEQ ID NO: 51, SEQ ID NO: 87, SEQ ID NO: 159, and SEQ ID NO: 477 and further comprising additional markers genes wherein the additional breast carcinoma marker genes are listed in Table 2.
20. - 24. Canceled